



**European Committee
of the Regions**

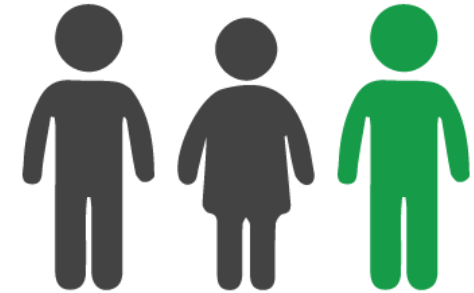
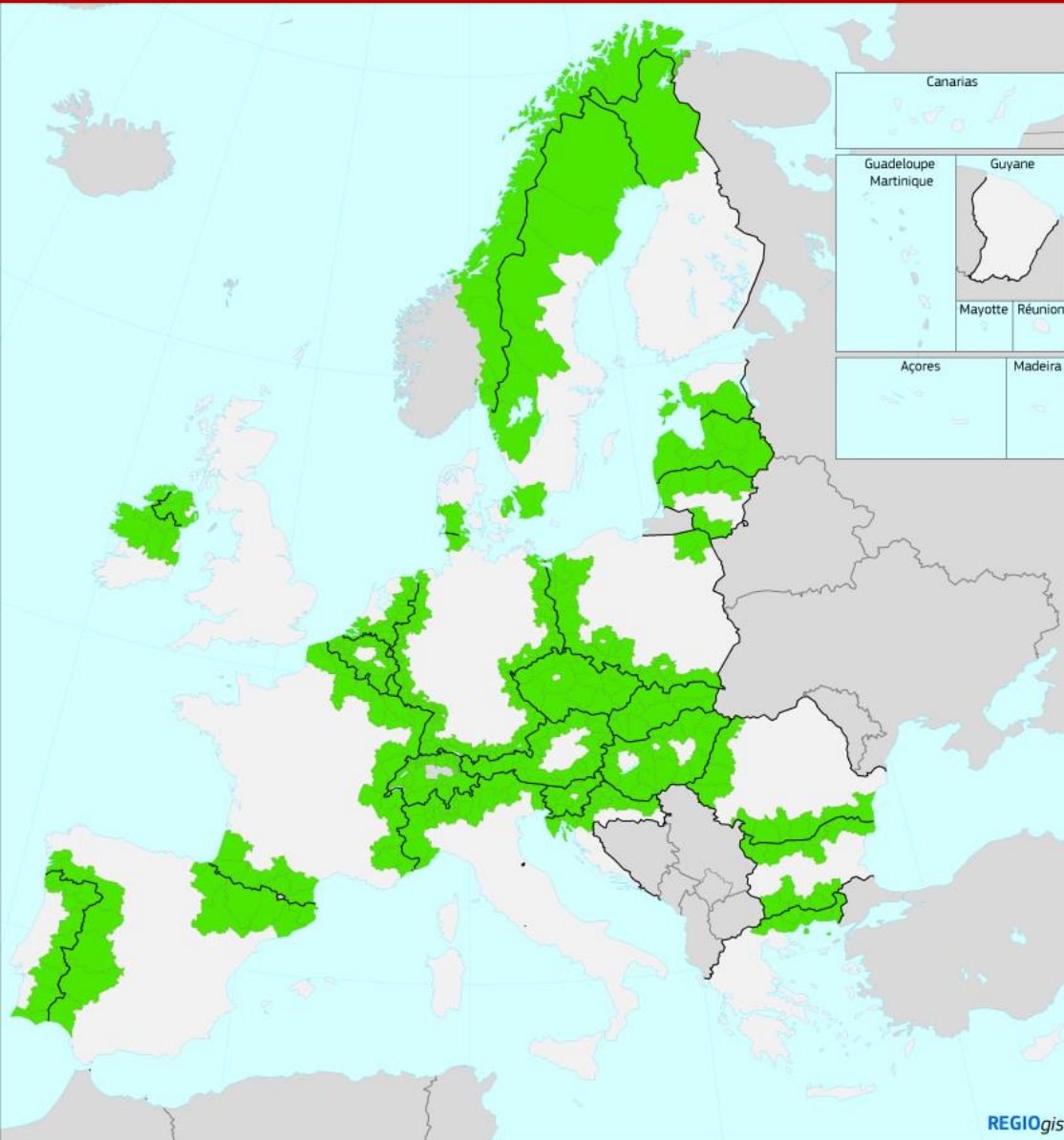


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Experience with the EGTC as a legal form

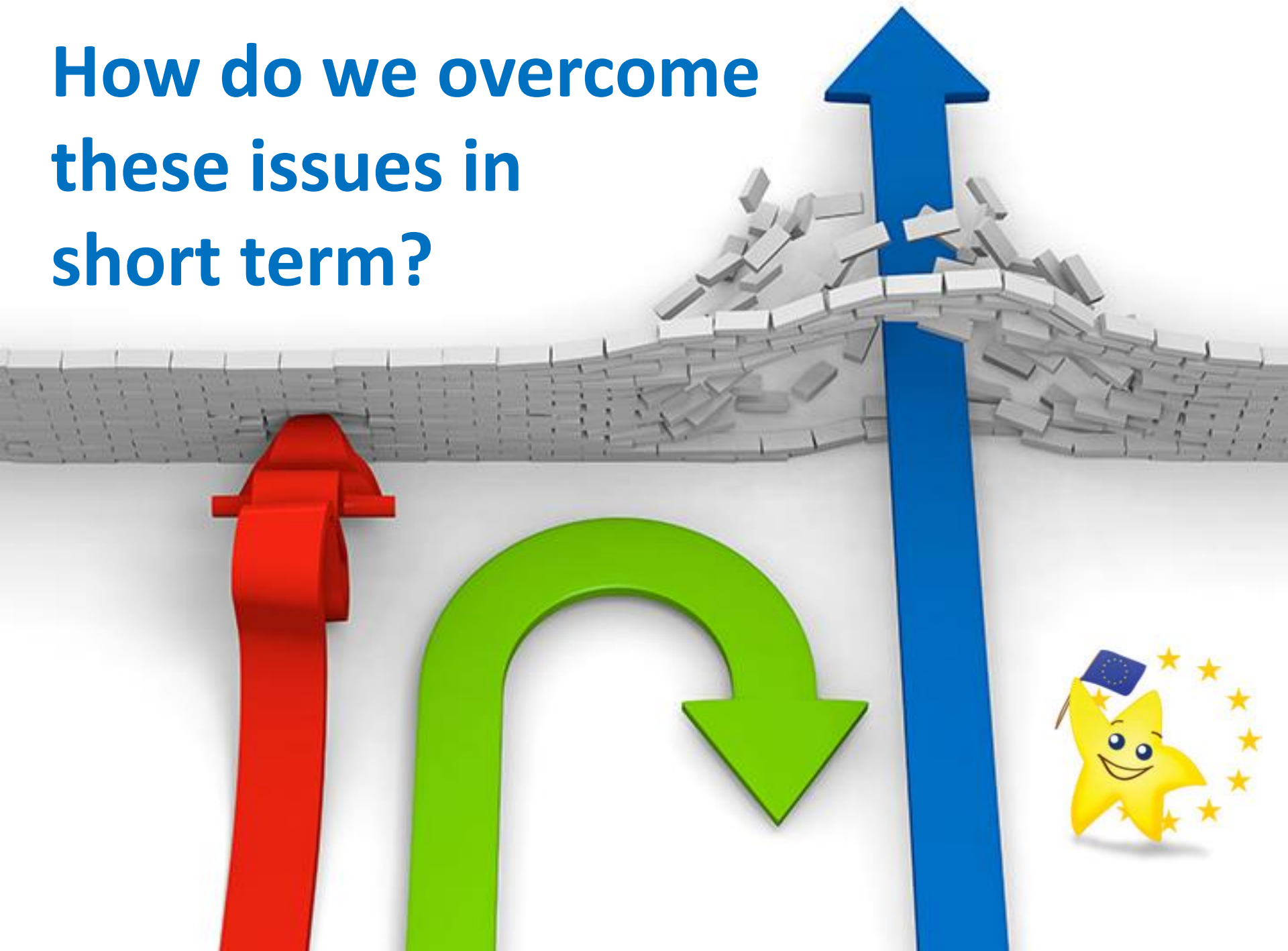
Obstacles continue to exist



37.5 % of EU citizens live in border areas

- Lack of trust
- Language barriers
- Accessibility and connectivity
- Administrative obstacles
- Legislative obstacles
- Non-recognition of qualifications
- Higher costs of living
- Untapped Economic potential
- Unequal treatment of patients
- Denial of public services

**How do we overcome
these issues in
short term?**



European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

- ★ The **EGTC** is the **first European cooperation structure with a legal personality** defined by European Law
- ★ designed to facilitate and promote territorial cooperation (cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation), in view of strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the European territory.
- ★ An EGTC may carry out actions of territorial cooperation, with or without a financial contribution from the EU
- ★ Public entities, or entities carrying out services of public interest can form an EGTC
- ★ Third countries can join

Benefits



The EGTC is created by local actors, not by Member States. **Only one** Member States needs to approve the EGTC, within 6 months!



Permanence and stability



Long-term strategic vision of the region



Less administration



Encouraged by the EU to be the beneficiaries and manager of EU funds



Legislation of only one MS applies



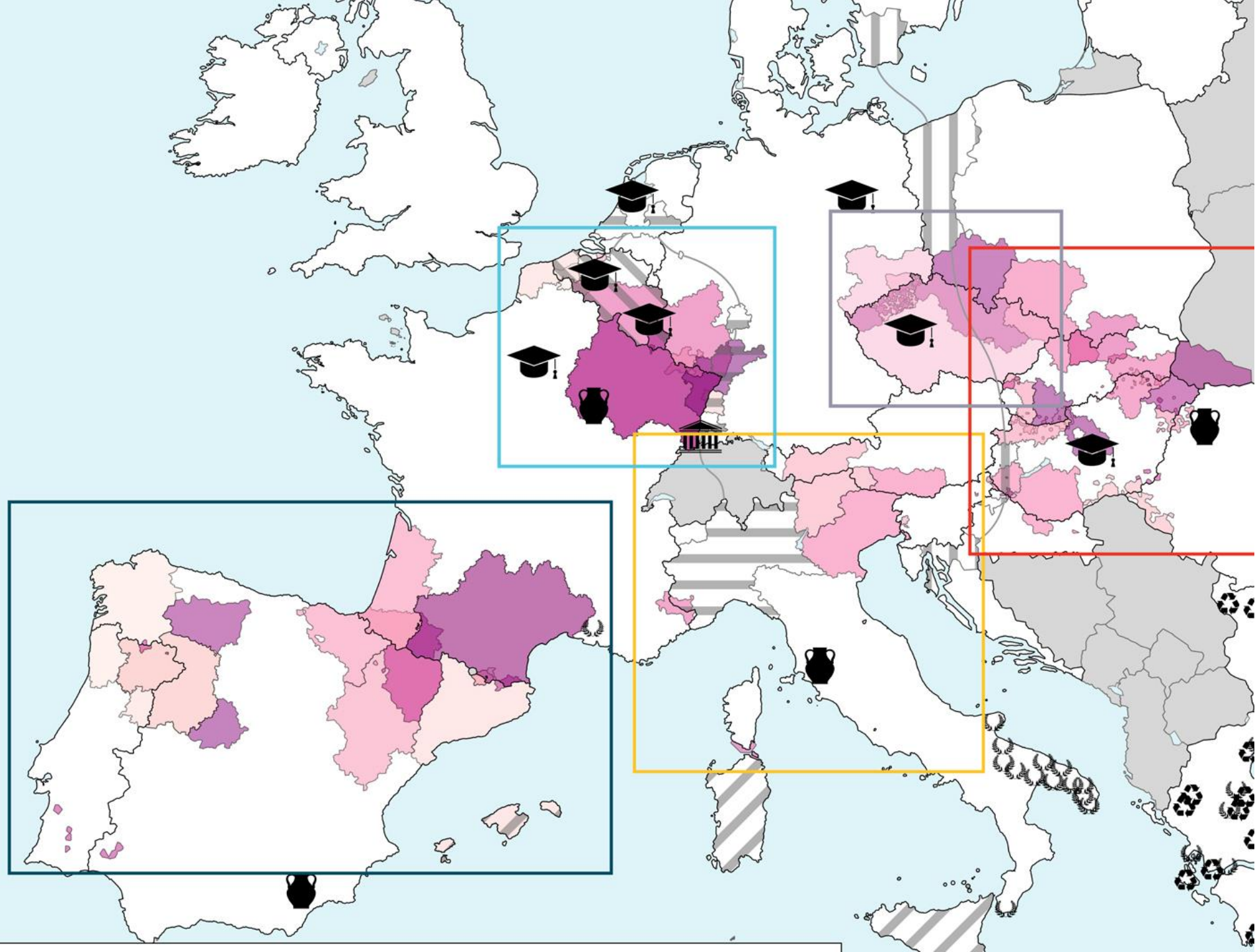
The EGTC Regulation is very flexible and vague, allowing the local and regional authorities to adapt it as needed in their Member States

73 EGTC existing today

- ★ 20 EU Member states
- ★ 4 Non-EU states (AL, UA, PAL, CH)
- ★ 1 Observer non-EU state (SR)
- ★ Over 26 million citizens concerned
- ★ 80 Regional and 560 Local Authorities
- ★ Not all are cross-border EGTCs
- ★ Some of them are programme managers

Future of EGTC

- ★ 6 additional MS and 2 non-MS
- ★ Desire to expand to MENA region
- ★ New regulation to simplify further





EGTC Hôpital Cerdagne/Cerdanya

Cross-border hospital



EGTC Eurocity Chaves-Verín

Cross-border public
Services and tourism



Research



- ★ Large majority of EGTCs work on cultural and sport exchanges
- ★ Two EGTCs have been involved in the implementation of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) in 2016.
- ★ Cross-border research projects organised
- ★ Certain EGTCs established for research in healthcare (Hospital Cerdanya), academic research (EGTC EUKN), nature research (European Mycological Institute) and statistics (ESPON)





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Thank you
Köszönöm
Hvala